

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Dramatic Life & Times of King David (1 of 2)
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Text: I Samuel 16-31, II Samuel
Date: November 18, 2020

Who was King David?

- Son of Jesse and Nitzevet
- Likely 15 when anointed King and subsequently killed Goliath around 16-19 yrs.
- Became King of Judah at 30 and sat on throne for 40 years ultimately lived to be approx. 70 years
- David was the King that unified Israel and Judah seven years after becoming King of Judah
- Died around 970 BC
- Davidic dynasty produced 22 kings that ruled for 400 years
- Husband of Michal, Ahinoam, Abigail, Maachah, Haggith, Abital, Eglah, Bathsheba
- Father of: Amnon, Chileab, **Absalom**, **Adonijah**, Shephatiah, Ithream, Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, **Solomon**, Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Jerimoth, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, Eliphalet, Tamar
- Prolific writer; musician, dancer, warrior, strategist, animal lover, strategist and politician
- 59 times mentioned in NT and 66 Chapters in OT for a combined 1,011. Main subject of 2 Books of Samuel & Chronicles. Half of Psalms were supposedly written/inspired by him.

A Man After God's Own Heart

When God had made up his mind to move away from Saul, He gave us a preview about the life of the man who would replace Saul as King.

14 "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." (1 Samuel 13:14)

Similarly the Apostle Paul confirmed this understanding in Acts 13:22 - *"After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'*

So, we see that God himself introduced David as a man after his own heart. This is an unparalleled credential to have! If God raved so much about David, we should be curious to understand what this phrase actually means. Furthermore, nothing is hidden from God, so he already knew the entire path of David's life when He made this assertion about David.

Question: What does it mean to be a person after God's own heart?

Yet David was not perfect...Some would call him a Drama King!

David had a very interesting lifetime filled with contradictions. He was quintessentially HUMAN. He practically saw it all...peaks, valleys, palaces, caves, loyalty, treachery and the list continues. The below are a few of his failings:

- Adultery: Due to an unchecked character flaw, he famously committed adultery and arranged for the killing of Uriah (an innocent & faithful subject) – 2 Samuel 11:1-27.
- Lied: David could be described as a serial liar. In 1 Samuel 20:29, he lied to Saul. He also lied to Ahimelech, the priest in Nob when he fled from Saul claiming he was on a secret mission for the king – 1 Samuel 21:1-9. 85 people died as a result. He also acted like he was mentally ill to deceive Achish before he fled to the cave in Adullam (1 Samuel 21:10-15)

- Broke promises: David killed two of Saul's sons and 5 grandsons as punishment even though in 1 Sam 24:21-22, he swore to Saul that he will not cut off his seed.
- Angered God with a census: David insisted on counting his army (his 1.3 million troops were a source of pride and false security). This displeased God who then sent a plague and slew 70,000 men – 2 Samuel 24:1-25
- Mixed success in raising a family: David failed to discipline his son, Amnon, for raping Tamar, his half-sister. This led to Absalom's rebellion who murdered Amnon in revenge and then tried to steal David's throne.
- David's Hit List: Despite having so much blood on his hands and not being allowed to build the temple, David still left a hit list for Solomon in 1 Kings 2:4-9...reminiscent of the mafia.

Question: How would you describe a man that has these characteristics?

David understood that God is Love and His Love permits us to partake of His Grace

Truly the things that made David great can all be traced back to his heart. Ultimately in David God showed that He was more interested in appointing a person with the right heart instead of a person with outward credentials.

- David always sought God. "My soul follows hard after You" (Ps. 63:8), "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God" (Ps. 42:1-2).
- He couldn't bear to see God's Ark in a tent while he lived in a mansion. (2 Sam 7:1-14)
- He stubbornly would not give a "free" offering to God in 2 Samuel 24:24
- He genuinely cared for the sheep as he rose early and handed off the sheep to a keeper before leaving to fight Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:20, Psalm 78:71-72
- David danced to the point of embarrassment when worshipping God
- He would not kill Saul - the Lord's anointed – despite the provocation and threats to his life
- David responded to God's correction as someone who knew God's character and love.
- David was a prophetic worshipper – His worship was prophetic in nature. Though he lived in old testament times, David was already worshipping God as though he lived after Christ's crucifixion when the veil was torn

David is a Case Study for God's Grace

David was such a confident warrior but he attained great military success not because of his own individual strength. Instead David always overcame his adversaries by relying on the grace of God. In fact he would put on the ephod and inquire of the Lord before commencing any battle. He understood that so long as victory belonged to Jesus, He would always be fine. To further know His state of mind, let us read what he told King Saul and Goliath separately before defeating the giant.

According to 1 Sam 17:40, David picked 5 smooth stones to fight Goliath the Giant. David told Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God." 1 Samuel 17:34-36

He must have realized that he didn't kill the lion or bear with his own strength but rather it was the Lord's doing. He had realized that God's anointing was upon him and for a reason!

If the anointing is a measure/indication of grace, David was anointed 3 times. The first time represented God's call (1 Sam 16:13). The second time represented justification (2 Sam 2:4) while the last anointing represented glorification (2 Sam 5:1-5).